



The Suffering of Job

Bible Story: The Suffering of Job • *Job*

Bottom Line: Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.

Memory Verse: “¹⁶...all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” *Colossians 1:16-17, NIV*

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Before we hear the Bible story, I’m going to ask our big picture question. And then I want you to say the answer. Ready? OK. **Who is God?** [*Let kids respond.*] **God is our Creator and King.** Now turn to a neighbor. One of you will ask the big picture question, and the other will answer. [*Prompt kids to begin.*] Great job! Whew, what a journey we have been on through the first several chapters of Genesis. We’ve seen how God created the world and everything in it, and we learned that everything God created was good. Everything He made was created for His glory. But when sin entered the world, people’s sin separated them from God. Sin spread, but God had a plan all along to rescue sinners. Today we will hear a story that happened around the same time God scattered the people at the tower of Babel and their families began to grow. This story is found in the Book of Job (JOHB).

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What a hard experience for Job! Job was a rich man, and he lost everything he had—his animals, his children, and even his health. Job’s wife told him to turn away from God, but Job did not. Job’s friends came and told him God was probably punishing him for some sort of sin in his life. Job was a sinner, but that wasn’t why he was suffering. Suffering is pain that is caused by injury, illness, or loss. Sometimes it’s physical pain, and sometimes it’s mental or emotional pain. And one thing we know about pain is that it hurts!

God spoke to Job through a whirlwind and **Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.** In the end, God gave back to Job everything he lost—and so much more.

Sometimes, like Job, we can forget that God is always in control. Even when bad things happen, God is in control. His ways are greater than our ways and we don’t always understand what happens, but God loves us and we can trust Him because of who He is. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

CHRIST CONNECTION



What You Say “ Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

One day, Jesus will put an end to suffering on earth and those who trust in Jesus will be with Him forever.”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Bible, Big Picture Question Poster

What You Do:

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Demonstrate how to use the table of contents in the front of a Bible to help them find the Book of Job.
- Remind them that the large and small numbers in the text represent chapters and verses respectively.
- Then, read the first few chapters of Job, or review the Bible story using the bolded text from the Bible story page.
- Ask the following questions, guiding discussion as suggested:

What You Say “The story of Job is not always easy to understand. Even many adults must think about some hard questions to understand Job’s story. Job did not understand why he faced suffering, but **Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.** We can trust God’s goodness when we face suffering too.”

2. Discussion Questions:

- Who thought that Job only loved God because of His blessings? (*Satan, Job 1:11*)
- Did Job curse God when he faced suffering? (*No, Job 2:10*)
- What did Job’s friends think caused Job’s suffering? (*They thought Job was being punished for sin, Job 4:7-9*)
- Was Job truly innocent of sin? *Guide kids to think about how everyone is born a sinner. Discuss with them the fact that only Jesus is truly without sin.*
- Is suffering a result of God punishing sin? *Guide kids to discuss the nature of sin and how it has broken the world. Help them see that suffering is not always a direct result of our own sin. Remind them that those who trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection will not face punishment for sin, though our sin will still carry consequences for us and others.*
- How is God good even when we face suffering? *Guide kids to think about the ways God can use difficult times to glorify Himself. Remind them that Jesus’ suffering purchased our freedom from sin. Help them see that because we were created to glorify Him, His glory is our good.*



3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Posters (1 poster per kid), ziptop bag (1 per kid), scissors

What You Do:

- Before the session, make a copy of the Memory Verse poster for each kid and cut each poster into 20 pieces.
- Gather each set of pieces in a separate ziplock bag.
- Display the Memory Verse poster.
- Lead the kids to read the Memory Verse together.
- Give each kid a bag of puzzle pieces.
- Prompt kids to put the puzzles together.
- When they finish, guide them to read the Memory Verse aloud together.

What You Say "The Bible says that knowing God's Word makes us wise. [See Ps. 119:130.] We won't understand every part of God's plan, but we know that *God is our Creator and King*. He made everything, and we can trust Him because He is good."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.